

...FOR BETTER FOR WORSE, FOR RICHER FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH...

That's some promise! And on the day you make it, you probably aren't worrying about the negatives. You are going to be better, richer and healthy for the rest of your lives.

In any case, you have to look on the bright side. There's no point in worrying, is there!

Exactly. But the time comes when you realise that, whatever happens, health must come first.

Not just yours. There's the person you married and the ones who didn't even exist when those promises were made. Suddenly just looking on the bright side isn't enough.

That's where we come in. We can't make illness a pleasure, but we can take a lot of the worry out of it.

Health First is part of an international organisation which provides private medical cover for more people than any other company in the world.

Health First doesn't replace the NHS it works alongside it, taking the waiting and the worrying away. Making sure that you and yours have the best possible treatment at the earliest opportunity. Making sure you get better in comfort without the family or the family-savings suffering.

That's not too far off what you promised on your wedding day is it?

And if you have even more responsibilities...if you're an employer and have to think about your employees' welfare...don't worry, we take care of that too.

In fact Health First has more private health policies to choose from than you're ever likely to need. Just tell us what you want...because we always put your health first.

Please send me further information about Health First:

Individual Plan Company Plan

Name _____

Company/Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Richmond Hill, Bournemouth. BH2 6EQ. Telephone 0202 292434.



TO SHOW YOU CARE

appear
as Reag
actions

need for
admitt. Per

elli wins
blamic
support

Howe pr

European opposition rises as Reagan imposes sanctions against Libya

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Despite dislike for the Gaddafi regime, there was widespread unease in European capitals yesterday over impending American sanctions against Libya. Opposition was mounting to any attempt by Washington to persuade its European allies to join in moves against Tripoli, even if refusal meant strain within the Western alliance.

The issue will provide the first test case of new plans for a joint European foreign policy agreed at Luxembourg last month. Greece, voicing the strongest opposition to sanctions, called for an urgent meeting of the EEC foreign policy committee to discuss the question. Co-ordination of foreign policy was a key result of the recent EEC summit, which set up a new foreign policy (Political Co-operation) secretariat. But a spokesman for the European Commission said there were no plans at present for an emergency meeting.

No need for war with Gadaffi, Peres says

Tel Aviv (Reuter, AP) - Israel's Prime Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, strongly attacked the Libyan leader Colonel Gadaffi again yesterday but said there was no need to go to war against Libya.

Speaking in the central town of Nes Ziona, Mr Peres called Colonel Gadaffi "a clown, a murderer and a liar" and urged the non-communist world to retaliate for last month's guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in which 19 people died.

Tripoli wins Islamic support

Fez, Morocco, (AFP) - Foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization yesterday agreed to back a Libyan request for support in the face of what Tripoli says is a US-Israeli threat of aggression.

But the Libyan proposal was watered down after a swinging attack on Libya by the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz.

The conference spokesman, Mr Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, said the organization's statement of support, to be drafted by the conference presidency, would apply to all member states threatened by Israel.

Howe presses Lagos minister on debt repayment

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday gave a qualified welcome to Nigeria's efforts to revive its economy, which has been hit by falling oil prices and the cost of servicing its large foreign debt.

Despite dislike for the Gaddafi regime, there was widespread unease in European capitals yesterday over impending American sanctions against Libya. Opposition was mounting to any attempt by Washington to persuade its European allies to join in moves against Tripoli, even if refusal meant strain within the Western alliance.

The issue will provide the first test case of new plans for a joint European foreign policy agreed at Luxembourg last month. Greece, voicing the strongest opposition to sanctions, called for an urgent meeting of the EEC foreign policy committee to discuss the question.

But a spokesman for the European Commission said there were no plans at present for an emergency meeting. Speaking in the central town of Nes Ziona, Mr Peres called Colonel Gadaffi "a clown, a murderer and a liar" and urged the non-communist world to retaliate for last month's guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in which 19 people died.

But the Libyan proposal was watered down after a swinging attack on Libya by the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz. The conference spokesman, Mr Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, said the organization's statement of support, to be drafted by the conference presidency, would apply to all member states threatened by Israel.

Italians urge closer anti-terrorist links

From John Earle, Rome

Signor Luigi Scalfaro, the Italian Interior Minister, will leave later this week on a tour of European capitals, including London, to urge closer coordination in the fight against terrorism, a ministry spokesman said here yesterday.

He will again propose a permanent anti-terrorist secretariat. The Italians were disappointed at what they considered the lukewarm reaction of several European countries, including Britain, when Signor Scalfaro first made the proposal at a meeting here of interior ministers last year. The proposal is seen as all the more urgent after the recent Palestinian terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

Tea workers demand half-day of prayer

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

Disruption seems imminent in Sri Lanka's plantations in the hill country with the decision of a leading trade union group to hold half-day prayer sessions for peace beginning on January 14 for three months.

Anti-nuclear camp cleared with chainsaws



Riot police with chainsaws bulldozed their way into a protest camp in dense Bavarian forest yesterday and hauled out protesters before demolishing log huts blocking work on West Germany's first nuclear reprocessing plant at Wackersdorf (Reuter reports).

Police said 2,000 men were involved in the operation to evict about 1,500 anti-nuclear demonstrators from the site and flatten their "village" of 158 cabins and tents so that tree-felling could resume.

Philadelphia survivor hits at police

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

One of the two survivors of the house in Philadelphia besieged and bombed by the police last May has gone on trial and has hit back at police.

Victimization fear as black schools reopen

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Black schools in South Africa are due to reopen today at the start of the new academic year but the prospect of proper attendance faded yesterday when the Government rejected a plea to defer the re-opening for three weeks.

Dismissed miners based out

From Our Correspondent, Johannesburg

Thousands of the 20,000 black miners sacked at the Impala platinum mines in Bophuthatswana, the second biggest producer of platinum group metals in the West, were loaded on to buses yesterday and driven away from the mine compounds.

Drugs scandal rocks Mauritius

Port Louis, Mauritius (AP) - Four ministers - foreign, social security, industry and commerce - have resigned from the Government of the Prime Minister Mr Anerood Jugnauth, after MPs were arrested in Amsterdam in late December allegedly trying to smuggle drugs into the Netherlands.

Bomb threat

Boston (AP) - Police acting on a telephone bomb threat found a "device" in a rubbish bin at Boston Garden, an hour before the Jewish Defence League were to demonstrate against a hockey game there between Boston Bruins and Moscow Dynamos.

Rebels kill 46

Rangoon (Reuter) - Karen separatist rebels killed 46 people and wounded 136 others in an attack on a ferry boat in southern Burma, the official Burmese News Agency said. It gave no further details.

Divorcee fired

Brussels (Reuter) - Belgium's supreme court, the Council of State, has upheld the sacking of a religion teacher because she divorced and remarried in a civil ceremony, the Education Ministry said.

Dam disaster

Peking (AP) - Thirty policemen helping construction workers were among 48 people killed in a cave-in at the site of a power station dam being built in southern China's Guangxi region.

Winery sold

Los Gatos, California (AP) - The Jesuit order's Novitiate Winery, which produced a wine billed as "devilishly good", has been taken over by a wine company after nearly a century of operation.

Tunisia change

Tunis (Reuter) - President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia has relieved his son, also called Habib, of his post as special presidential adviser. No reason was given.

Bonner surgery

Boston (AFP) - Mrs Yelena Bonner, the wife of the Soviet dissident Dr Andrei Sakharov, is to undergo heart bypass surgery because medication has failed to cure her.

Lorry chaos

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - More than 500,000 Brazilian lorry drivers went on strike for a minimum pay scale, blocking highways and threatening food supplies in Brazilian cities.

Planes collide

Zwiebriicken (AP) - Two US Air Force F15 planes collided in mid-air yesterday killing one of the pilots and injuring one man on the ground.

Cold deaths

Delhi (AFP) - At least 160 people have died in a cold wave sweeping northern and eastern India for the past four weeks.

Correction

Contrary to yesterday's report, both Channel Tunnel Group and Eurotunnel plan to operate as well as build a fixed link across the Channel.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

From Jonathan Braude, Brussels

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

Fashion history

Paris (Reuter) - A state-run French fashion museum housed in the Louvre will be inaugurated on January 28 by President Mitterrand.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.

British farmers' income fell 17.5pc last year

British farmers took a 17.5 per cent cut in their income in 1985, worse than any other country in the EEC, according to figures released by the European Community statistical office yesterday.



The Americans and Italians
will share just under 30%.

The other Westland shareholders will own more than 70%.

So who'll be at the controls?

The short answer is, we will.

If you vote in favour of the new proposals from Sikorsky (a division of UTC) and Fiat, as your Board urges you to do, Westland will remain an independent British company.

Free to develop, design and build helicopters in Britain.

Sikorsky and Fiat will become valued and trusted partners, but only minority shareholders.

Together they'll own no more than 29.9%, and this could drop to 21%.

Thriving, independent companies themselves, they are backing Westland's long-term prosperity.

We are convinced that their proposals, though similar in financial terms to those of the European consortium, are better for our company, our shareholders and our workforce.

In view of the vast amount of public comment, we would like to give you our main reasons once again.

A tried and tested partnership.

As you probably know we have, in fact, been working successfully with Sikorsky for a long while.

Over the last thirty-eight years we have built the Dragonfly, Whirlwind, Wessex and Sea King helicopters under licence from them.

Often, as they have been kind enough to admit, improving them.

(We're proud to say, our version of the Sea King outsells theirs in export markets.)

We get on well together, we know each other and we build very good machines together.

An association with Fiat is a further important benefit in our view.

They are a large, profitable and international group with interests in aviation, space and materials technology.

Furthermore, many of their interests dovetail with ours.

This will give us opportunities to strengthen our technological capabilities and open up new markets.

Moreover, Westland and Fiat are two of Europe's leading helicopter transmission manufacturers.

By contrast, the proposals of the European group aren't nearly so appealing.

A marriage of inconvenience.

Frankly, the consortium seems to be an ad hoc grouping of companies, some of which are state-owned and fierce competitors of ourselves and each other.

The truth is, there's a glut of helicopters in Europe, with problems of overmanning and overcapacity.

We believe that instead of making complete helicopters, Westland would steadily be reduced to producing only parts for a European machine.

Our skills, our know-how, our self esteem would all be degraded whereas with Sikorsky and Fiat they'll be enhanced.

With their help, we'll form a formidable new competitor for everyone else in the market.

But would the Government discriminate against Westland if we join forces with Sikorsky and Fiat?

Our Chairman wrote and asked the Prime Minister this very question.

The Prime Minister's assurances.

We sent the full text of both letters to our shareholders on 6th January and yesterday published them in an advertisement.

One of the key points she makes is this:

"As long as Westland continues to carry on business in the UK, the Government will of course continue to regard it as a British and therefore a European company, and will support it in pursuing British interests in Europe."

Why shareholders can't vote on both proposals.

We have sent you full details of both sets of proposals together with the Board's recommendation.

Some shareholders, however, have asked why they can't vote on the two and make a decision as they do in a competitive takeover.

There are two reasons why not.

First, this is not a takeover. It's a capital reconstruction for a company in extreme financial difficulty.

The Board's overriding duty is to assess, with its wide knowledge of the commercial background, what is best for Westland and to make a clear recommendation to shareholders.

Second, because of the urgency of the situation, we need a quick and decisive solution. We simply can't risk falling between two stools.

Apart from anything else, the law insists that either proposal gets a three-quarters majority. If both alternatives are put to shareholders, there's a real danger that neither will get that majority.

Our urgent priority must be to establish a stable framework within which Westland can operate.

Westland's phone-in.

We hope we have explained why your Board is strongly recommending you to vote without delay in favour of the Sikorsky and Fiat proposals.

If you have any difficulty in completing and/or returning your proxy card in time, we invite you to phone us between 10am and 8pm daily.

The number is 01-583 1398.

Every single vote is crucial for Westland's future and delay could seriously damage us.

Remember, to be valid, your proxy must be received this week.

FOR USE BY WESTLAND SHAREHOLDERS ONLY

Please return the coupon to The Registrar, Westland plc, National Westminster Bank PLC, Registrar's Department, 20, Box 82, 37 Broad Street, Bristol BS99 7YA.

Point of Proxy for use at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Westland plc ("the Company") to be held on Tuesday, 14th January, 1986.

I/We the undersigned being (a) member(s) of the Company, hereby appoint the Chairman of the Meeting or (see note 1):

as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company convened for 10.30 a.m. on 14th January, 1986 and at any adjournment thereof. I/We direct that my/our vote(s) be cast on the resolutions referred to in the Notice of Meeting as indicated by an X as shown below and on any other resolution in such manner as my/our proxy thinks fit.

Date: _____

Signature(s): _____ Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name(s) in full: _____

Address(es): _____

RESOLUTIONS:	FOR	AGAINST
Number 1: Ordinary Resolution		
Number 2: Special Resolution		
Number 3: Special Resolution		

Notes:
1. If you wish to appoint any other person as your proxy, who need not be a Member of the Company, please advise the name of the Chairman of the Meeting and return the coupon to the same address as your proxy.
2. Please indicate how you wish the proxy to vote in respect of the resolutions. If no indication is given, the proxy will have discretion as to whether and how to vote.
3. To be valid this proxy form must be completed with the power of attorney or other document, if any, under which it is signed or a certified copy thereof must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, National Westminster Bank PLC, Registrar's Department, 20, Box 82, 37 Broad Street, Bristol BS99 7YA, not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting or adjourned meeting.
4. In the case of a corporation, this proxy form must be executed under its common seal or signed on its behalf by a duly authorised officer, duly authorised by the board of directors, the secretary or other officer of the company, and for this purpose authority will be deemed to be conferred by the board of directors of the company if the name of the officer is shown.
5. Any alteration to this proxy form should be initialed.

WESTLAND

How Digital's computers add up.

7,000,000

This year Digital Equipment Company (DEC) is spending £7 million on job training. Last year we took on 1,000 people bringing the total number of jobs created by DEC in the UK to 4,600.

35,000,000

Yesterday, Mr Leon Brittan, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, opened DEC's new £35 million research and development centre in Reading. It's already designing the next generation of DEC's office and communication products.

100,000,000

DEC invested over £100 million in the UK this fiscal year with £22 million committed yesterday to expanding our distribution network.

£142,000,000

No wonder the world's second largest computer company is growing in Britain.

digital

Digital Equipment Co. Limited, PO Box 110,
Digital Park, Worton Grange, Reading RG2 0TR.
Tel: 0734 868711.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



For a number of years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries it was the practice of The Times to review the events of the preceding year in a series of essays - some of considerable length and detail.

THE COLONIES IN 1893.

Action is at all times so much more dramatically attractive than growth that interest in the colonial history of 1893 almost naturally centres in Africa...

But it became evident in the month of July that between the European settlers in Mashonaland and the Matabele was practically inevitable. Mining and agricultural operations could only be carried on in the country by means of native labour, and in order to secure this it was necessary to guarantee protection to natives employed by Europeans...

superpowers. In Britain the PAC is all but ignored by the left and right: for their own reasons they prefer to uphold the ANC as the decisive anti-government force. Nelson Mandela is not the only leader of the dispossessed African people languishing on Robben Island...

The little campaign was as brilliantly executed as the great waters of the Shangani river on November 15, in both of which some thousands of the Matabele were engaged, and in both of which the company's forces were completely victorious...

Tomorrow's Europe is being formed out of a multitude of different decisions. It is of more than passing importance whether Westland opts to go towards or away from Europe.

What the Foreign Office should be aiming for is to have as the last Governor a local Chinese leader, who enjoys the confidence of the Hong Kong community and Peking, and who could be the first head of government of the territory after the handover of 1997.

The important thing is to develop some kind of political process in Hong Kong between now and 1977, not another the colony's dying days in a royal embrace.

Eden and the unions - a reappraisal

From Lord Carr of Hadley Sir, The harsh criticism of Anthony Eden in your leader of January 3 for failing in 1955 to act on Lord Nuffield's proposal for a legal requirement for secret ballots before unions could call strikes and for electing officers in a singularly ill-considered and unfair manner...

Resisting apartheid

From Mr Costa Gazidis Sir, Roger Scruton (December 17) tells us that it was wrong for the GIC to have commissioned a bust of the jailed Nelson Mandela...

Future of Westland

From Mr C. G. R. Buxton Sir, The Government seems embarrassed that two imaginative schemes for Westland's future have emerged. But surely this is cause for congratulation?

Lessons from Swiss

From Mr N. Leonard Alderson Sir, Mr Farr (December 27) illustrates the informality of the Swiss political leaders. I, too, can testify to this, having passed the Foreign Minister in the street in Gstaad this summer eating a hot dog!

Wind in the wires

From Dr C. J. Spray Sir, With reference to recent correspondence concerning plans for the removal of overhead telegraph wires may I suggest that one section of the community, albeit human, will be delighted by their passing...

Sleepers awake

From Mr J. Lingford-Hughes Sir, Professor Fells (December 28) is mistaken. It is not lying awake, sleeping car which keeps him awake, but the copious drafts of brandy he consumes beforehand.

Time to settle schools dispute

From the President of the Secondary Heads Association Sir, Six and a half years ago, when the Conservative Administration came to power, morale in the Armed Services was at a low point, there were major recruitment problems, key personnel were leaving and there were grave equipment problems...

March of communism

From Mr E. G. Nugee, QC Sir, When you say (leading article, December 27) that "At the centre of Soviet ideology is the belief that the armies of socialism march in one direction only", you put your finger on the single greatest danger in the future world peace...

Decline in research

From Sir Christopher Laidlaw Sir, Dr McCintock's belief (January 2) that our future prosperity increasingly depends on our long-term research base illustrates a prevailing misconception in academia, however well-intentioned...

India and the British

From Lord Glendevon Sir, Michael Hamlyn in his article (December 28) on the centenary celebrations of the Indian National Congress Party reminded us that the party's formation was encouraged by the British.

Statistical wealth

From Mr H. R. Wynne-Griffith Sir, Your leader on the distribution of wealth (December 30) highlights an anomaly which prejudices the validity of the interpretation placed upon the statistics.

For frozen fingers?

From Mr Aidan Foster-Carter Sir, You carry today (January 6) a full-page advertisement for a very expensive German sports car. Listed among its attractions is an "air-conditioned glovebox".

Terms of endearment

From Mrs Niamh Whitefield Sir, In suggesting that French husbands are known to their wives as "cabbages", Commander Milner (January 3) does them less than justice.

THE GREEN DEBATE

Yesterday a jaded department of state announced its rebirth. Its minister advanced the cause of vigorous government and took pride in its many-sided powers of intervention. Mr. William Waldegrave, who had been consigned - some thought - to a junior minister's backwater, took the floor at the Oxford farming conference to fashion a new destiny for the Department of the Environment and, perhaps, a political future for himself.

This was no solo effort. Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State, and his energetic permanent secretary Mr Terry Heiser have nurtured the project of recasting their department, repainting its fading colours of late 1960s' urbanism and dark municipal management with bright green paint more suited to the 1980s.

Mr Waldegrave's subject had been well advertised by the weekend row between him and Mr Michael Jopling or rather between those ubiquitous but never identified briefers who have been doing such a busy trade in Whitehall in recent weeks. On the surface Mr Jopling's assertion that the Ministry of Agriculture takes an interest in conservation is unchallengeable. Both the ministry's officials and their client groups in the National Farmers Union and the agricultural lobbies have recently signed up as environmentalists.

Cynics may put that down to economics and some self-interested calculations about land use and revenue in the context of gross over-production, which even the Common Agricultural Policy cannot much longer sustain. Others, more generous, may cite the embarrassment of farmers at grain surpluses in years of famine.

But the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food by its origins and departmental ethos will always be the producers' representative at the court of central government. Consumers and taxpayers ought to have their voices at the Cabinet table. So too the walkers, the scientists and the casual gazers at tracts of British landscape. As matters stand, the twin quangos of the Nature Conservancy and the Countryside Commission are puny. The Department of the Environment with its rag-bag of responsibilities across planning and landscape has till now never focused its role. Mr Waldegrave's speech and its aggrandizing bid is therefore welcome.

There are almost always competing uses for land, two sides (or more) to protection of hedgerows and policy for woodlands. Large sums of public money are being spent to skew the production of foodstuffs. The full weight of the Environment Department ought to be thrown into discussion about the effects of that expenditure on the lay of the land. This is a debate in which more not less verbal fistfights between ministers would be welcome.

NIGERIAN LINKS

Nigeria's foreign minister Professor Bolaji Akinwemi calls on Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street today, 18 months after relations between the two countries were soured by the Dikko affair. It is very much to be hoped that his government is now ready to respond to Britain's request for the resumption of full diplomatic activity.

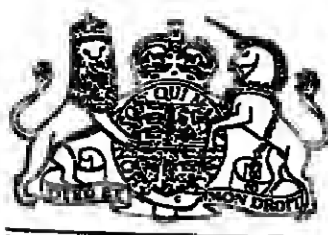
There are several reasons why it should do so. Britain remains Nigeria's biggest trading partner - and foreign investor - with a £2,000 million tied up there. A quarter of Nigeria's business comes to this country, making it 15th in our own league of overseas markets - and the biggest in Africa - north of Pretoria. Some 70,000 Nigerians, many of them students, live in Britain - while 10,000 of our own expatriates are working out there. This level of activity between the Commonwealth's old mother country and black Africa's biggest state, argues for official representation at the highest level.

It was hoped in Whitehall that the two countries might be able to mend their fences last September when Sir Geoffrey Howe visited Lagos. But the new regime of President Ibrahim Babangida had only just taken up office.

Four months later, however, there is not that excuse. Babangida, having survived one attempted coup against him, is emerging as a more popular leader than most of his recent predecessors in Lagos. He has also made a modest mark in the Commonwealth, by agreeing to send a Nigerian as co-chairman of the forthcoming delegation to South Africa. He should now feel confident enough to put his relationship with Britain back on a proper footing.

On the face of it the two other

A leading article yesterday referred to sackings from the Government of Mr Francis Pym, Mr James Prior and Sir Ian Gilmour. In fact, Mr Prior resigned.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM January 7: Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE January 7: Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded Lady Angela Oswald as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE January 7: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today received His Excellency The Japanese Ambassador and Madame Toshio Yamazaki.

The Prince of Wales will attend a dinner given by Mr and Mrs Walter Annenberg in aid of Operation Raleigh at Rancho Mirage, California, on February 22 after his five-day visit to Texas.

A thanksgiving service for the life of the Right Rev Arthur W. Goodwin Hudson will be held at St Paul's Church, Portman Square, (in Robert Adam Street), London W1, on Monday, January 27, at 12.15pm.

Luncheons HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Sir Lawrence Byford, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, presided at the annual reunion luncheon of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary held at New Scotland Yard yesterday.

Latest appointments Latest appointments include: Mr David Parnham to be a trustee of the Tate Gallery, in succession to Mr Peter Palumbo.

Clifton College Term begins today. A. J. Allport (Wiseman's) is head of school and H. D. Davies (East Town) is second head of school.



Lord Mansfield, First Crown Estate Commissioner, looking at a model of the proposed conversion into flats of the Diorama building (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Conversion plan for London landmark

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent The Diorama building south of Regent's Park, London, built by Nash to house Louis Daguerre's early version of the cinema in 1823, which has recently been threatened with redevelopment as offices or even demolition, is to be converted into flats under a new scheme announced yesterday by the Crown Estate Commissioners.

Under the renovation scheme, there will be 18 flats and maisonettes of one to three bedrooms, costing, from £150,000 to about £300,000, and two houses which front on to Park Square East at the south-east corner of the park, which could cost about £500,000 each.

Latest wills Miss Gladys Margaret Hogg, of Chiswick, London, for nearly 50 years a senior professional at the Queen's Ice Skating Club, Bayswater, left estate valued at £160,901 net.

Allhallows School, Devon The Lent Term at Allhallows begins today and ends on Wednesday, March 26. Junior scholarship examinations will take place in the week beginning February 17.

Marriages Captain T. J. Garforth-Bles and Miss F. J. News The marriage took place on Saturday, January 4, at Paul's Knightsbridge, of Captain Timothy Bles Garforth-Bles, 17th/21st Lancers, youngest son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Richard News, of Hindhead, Surrey.

Birthdays today Miss Shirley Bassy, 49; Mr David Bowie, 39; Canon J. S. Boys Smith, 85; Mr Graham Chapman, 45; Sir Michael Cresswell, 76; Mr Joseph Ferver, 74; Professor J. R. Holden, 73; Lord Hollenden, 72; Mr Roy Kincaid, 52; the Right Rev E. G. Keble, 71; Mr Commander Joe Metcalfe, 63; Mr Ron Woodroffe, 62; Professor W. B. Reddaway, 72; the Hon Mabel Strickland, 87; Mr Michael Wheeler, QC, 71.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon G. S. Monck and Miss C. E. V. Naylor The engagement is announced between the Hon G. S. Monck, second son of the late Viscount Monck and of Mrs G. M. Falmer, Pilgrims Farm, Overton, Hampshire, and Camilla, second daughter of the late Mr John Naylor and of Mrs John Naylor, The Mill House, Beamsley, Hampshire.

Science report Painkiller drug could aid memory By Pearce Wright, Science Editor A drug used in painkillers and blood pressure preparations may help to prevent loss of memory in the elderly.

The suggestion comes from two scientists studying neuro-anatomy at Yale Medical School in the United States. They looked at the action of the drug, clonidine, on the ability of ageing monkeys after experts in animal behaviour had drawn up tests that could be used to assess memory ability.

OBITUARY

PROF K. de B. CODRINGTON

Professor Kenneth de B. Codrington, who died on New Year's Day at his home in Appledore, was Professor of Indian Archaeology in the University of London from 1948 to 1966. He had published a number of works on the arts and archaeology of India and of her northern neighbours and for some years prior to his taking the Chair at London University had been Keeper of the Indian Section of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

SIR JOHN BARLOW

Sir John Denman Barlow, Bt, Conservative Member of Parliament for the Middleton and Prestwich division of Lancashire from 1951 to 1966, died on January 5, 1986, aged 87. The son of Sir John Barlow, first baronet, whom he succeeded in 1932, and the Hon Maria Heywood Denman, sister of the third Baron Denman, he was born on June 15, 1898.

SAM SPIEGEL

The Rt Hon Edward Heath, MBE, MP writes: May I add to your well balanced appraisal of Sam Spiegel's life work in films, his worldwide triumphs and his lesser successes, a note about him as a man.

Francis Mathew scholarship

The Francis Mathew travelling scholarship, available to those seeking a career in printing, publishing or paper, has been increased to £750.

Dinner

HM Government Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Lady Howe were hosts yesterday at a dinner at Lancaster House given in honour of the Nigerian Foreign Minister Professor Bolaji Akintoye, and Mrs Akintoye.

Sacred Heart School, Tunbridge Wells

Spring Term begins today and ends on Wednesday March 26, 1986. Half-term is from Friday, February 14, to Monday, February 17, inclusive.

Peres visit

Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel, will visit the United Kingdom from January 21 to 26.

Your Will

can give us the help we so desperately need in our fight against poverty and despair.

Cacharel advertisement: We will send your love a gift for St. Valentine's Day if you send your love in The Times.

Cacharel advertisement: The romance of Cacharel is in the air on St. Valentine's Day. But only when you place a personal message to a loved one in The Times on February 14th.



Continental Europe's Main Airport.



With 630 take-offs and landings daily, Frankfurt is Continental Europe's main airport. Even Amsterdam has a lot of catching up to do. At Frankfurt/Main Airport

everything is under one roof, making connections fast and easy—in as little as 45 minutes. What's more, you can rest assured that your luggage makes the transfer

with you. More and more British business people are discovering that the Frankfurt connection is often the best way to get to their destination, world-wide.



Lufthansa

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money...

Table with 5 columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, 1985 Price. Lists various companies like Nat West, Bank of Scotland, Lloyd's, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns for days of the week (MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN) and a 'Total' column.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for fund name, 1985 High, 1985 Low, 1985 Price, and other metrics.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing banks and their discount rates, including Nat West, Bank of Scotland, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Interest rate jitters

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 23. Dealings End, Jan 10. Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E. Lists companies like Anglo-South African, Anglo-Thai, etc.

BUILDING AND ROADS

Table listing building and road companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table listing chemical and plastic companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table listing cinema and TV companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table listing drapery and store companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

ELECTRICALS

Table listing electrical companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E. Lists companies like Anglo-Thai, Anglo-South African, etc.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table listing finance and land companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

FOODS

Table listing food companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table listing hotels and caterers companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table listing industrial companies (A-D) with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E. Lists companies like Anglo-Thai, Anglo-South African, etc.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

LEISURE

Table listing leisure companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

L-R

Table listing companies (L-R) with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E. Lists companies like Anglo-Thai, Anglo-South African, etc.

MINING

Table listing mining companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table listing motors and aircraft companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

S-Z

Table listing companies (S-Z) with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E. Lists companies like Anglo-Thai, Anglo-South African, etc.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table listing overseas traders companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table listing paper, printing, and advertising companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies with columns for 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, 1985 Yld, 1985 P/E.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 Claims required for -9 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cuckney and the playboy of the Westland world

Westland shareholders cannot, with any hope of success, demand that Michael Heseltine or Leon Brittan should explain to them their own entrenched positions on the company's future.

Of the seven men who now comprise the Westland board, only three have been subjected to the scrutiny of the vote.

In their wake he brought in two new non-executives, neither of whom should be expected to differ from him.

Chancellor's base rate cloud

The Chancellor may have succeeded in downgrading sterling M3 as a totem for the City, but he has not managed to do the same with bank lending.

Property firm aims for cash

Stock Conversion, the property company, is to redeem £7.53 million of debenture stock nine years early, clearing the way for it to come to the market for a large amount of money.

Beazer and Kier discuss new bid

The chairman of the construction group C. H. Beazer and French Kier met yesterday to try to resolve the £146 million takeover battle.

business and now promoted to chief executive. Although Westland's finances left much to be desired, it is generally felt that Hugh Stewart did his best within the restrictions that the unwieldy Westland structure imposed.

This leaves shareholders with just one more hope of independent advice from their board. It comes in the seemingly appropriate form of Admiral Sir John Treacher, a former vice-chief of Naval Staff and a member of the Westland board since 1978.

But his entrepreneurial skills do not stop there. Since 1977 the admiral had been a director of National Car Parks, the company with an unparalleled skill for turning derelict land into streams of cash.

Sir Donald is believed to be left with a personal holding of a few thousand Westland shares. No doubt Sir John Treacher will offer him some friendly advice on how to vote at Tuesday's crucial meeting.

ing season, and with the period of maximum incentive for companies to invest under 1985-86 capital allowances looming, this sort of bank lending figure was something we could have done without.

The only crumb of comfort is that raising interest rates to attempt to curb it would appear to be, to say the least, counter-productive.

Hanson wins 60% of SCM and boosts battle for Imps

Hanson Trust now has more than 60 per cent of the United States conglomerate SCM, and last night dismissed efforts by SCM to obtain a re-hearing of the vital court case which left the way open for Hanson's \$927.5 million bid to proceed.

The New York Appeal Court decision prohibited the SCM board from disposing of some of the most attractive assets of SCM, a typewriter to chemicals company for which Hanson first bid in August.

The coup is also seen as a boost for Hanson in its £1.9 million bid for Imperial Group in Britain, countering Imperial's allegation that Hanson no longer has the winning touch.

Mr Postgate has fallen foul of Lloyd's twice; in 1970 when he was severely censured and in 1982 the upshot of which was Lord Wilberforce's sentence of suspension in place of a previous expulsion.

ing season, and with the period of maximum incentive for companies to invest under 1985-86 capital allowances looming, this sort of bank lending figure was something we could have done without.

produced a cash offer which topped Merrill's \$74 a share mix of cash and paper, the board resorted to the "Crown Jewels lock-up".

The board's first line of defence was a management buyout, funded by Merrill Lynch, but when Hanson

produced a cash offer which topped Merrill's \$74 a share mix of cash and paper, the board resorted to the "Crown Jewels lock-up".

The proposal was to become effective on January 1, but in response to sharp criticism from the White House the decision was delayed to allow time for more comment.

Societies fear delay in competition Bill

Building society chiefs fear that the Building Societies Bill will enable the societies to compete on more equal terms with banks and other financial services institutions.

produced a cash offer which topped Merrill's \$74 a share mix of cash and paper, the board resorted to the "Crown Jewels lock-up".

The proposal was to become effective on January 1, but in response to sharp criticism from the White House the decision was delayed to allow time for more comment.

The usual six-month gap between the Royal Assent and an Act's implementation would mean that societies could not move into new areas of business before April 1987 at the earliest.

These new areas - such as unsecured lending and general insurance activities - will enable the societies to compete on more equal terms with banks and other financial services institutions.

Coffee prices up sharply

Coffee prices rose almost to their highest level for nine years in London yesterday after the Brazilian Coffee Institute confirmed forecasts of a severe fall in the coffee crop.

Last night, Hanson shares moved up 5p to 200p, despite the general market gloom.

Analysts felt that the benefits of victory in the SCM battle have still to be fully realized.

The takeover is being funded entirely out of American borrowings secured against Hanson's American assets and has no bearing on Hanson's financing of its bid for Imperial.

Mr Jorio Dauster, head of the BCI office in London, said: "Brazil has enough coffee to go on supplying its traditional volumes to the world market for the rest of this year."

Nissan UK puts £50m into sales

The plant's initial output will be assembled from kits imported from Japan and will have only about 20 per cent European content.

More firms employ headhunters as recruiting intensifies

"If headhunters weren't around for six-figure salaries as part of the big bang, commissions earned by some of the consultants have been considerable."

Mr David Sheppard, managing director of Russell Reynolds Associates said: "Firms have to be more efficient these days to survive and finding the right people is the key."

Mr David Sheppard disagrees. "Do you know that the day an American executive arrives in his new job he completes his cv and sends it out to headhunters to let them know where he is?"

IN BRIEF

Bid boost for Argyll

Argyll Group had an acceptance level of about 2 per cent for its £1.9 billion bid for Distillers by the time the offer reached its first closing date yesterday, market sources said.

This is much higher than is normal at this stage of a takeover battle with acceptance levels traditionally less than 1 per cent at the first closing date.

Argyll is still waiting to hear from Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on whether the bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

According to unconfirmed reports, ministers will discuss the takeover at tomorrow's full Cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile Distillers has to correct, at the request of the Takeover Panel, an impression given in one of its press advertisements that the Panel was still considering a complaint by Distillers against Argyll.

Trust ahead London Investment Trust lifted profits from £1.81 million to £2.01 million before tax in the six months to September 30. Turnover was up from £11.5 million to £16.3 million and the dividend is 0.47p (0.44p).

HK record Hong Kong share prices surged 9 points to close at a record high of 1,515.53 yesterday. The previous record of 1,810.20 was set on July 17, 1981.

The merger of British Home Stores and Habitat Moterecare under an offer from Storehouse, a new company, is now fully unconditional. Storehouse has received acceptances for 56.90 per cent of BHS ordinary shares and 72.05 per cent of Habitat shares.

Banks in talks Commercial banks from Europe and North America are meeting World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials in Washington this week to discuss the Baker plan. They are the highest level since the plan was proposed.

Alcan charges Alcan Aluminium says its 1985 fourth quarter earnings will include special charges of \$350 million (£243 million) (\$2.15 a share) after tax.

Shanghai fleet The city of Shanghai has launched its own airline with a fleet of five Boeing 707s, the New China News Agency reported.

Motoring school The British School of Motoring has been ordered by the Advertising Standards Authority to stop using its slogan "BSM where most people pass the first time" because it could not substantiate its claim.

Dire fate Sydney (AP) - A student parody of Money for Nothing by the pop group Dire Straits has been withdrawn from the airwaves after complaints from the group's Australian agent.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Lists various market indices and prices.

Table with columns: COMPANY NEWS. Lists news for PRITCHARD SERVICES, WEBER HOLDINGS, and PEEF GROUP.

ITC heads consider finance plan

Little progress was made at yesterday's informal meeting of heads of delegations to the International Tin Council to discuss the financing plan of Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr Ralph Kestevenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals.

The tin crisis broke on October 24 last year when the ITC said that it could no longer finance supporting tin prices. Tin trading on the London Metal Exchange has been suspended since then.

More firms employ headhunters as recruiting intensifies

A discreet telephone call to an executive asking him to meet for a chat about his future is the signal that headhunters are on the prowl.

These days few jobs paying more than £30,000 a year are advertised. Instead a company calls in recruitment specialists, or headhunters. It will tell them the sort of man it is looking for and wait for the candidates to be whistled in.

Mr David Sheppard, managing director of Russell Reynolds Associates said: "Firms have to be more efficient these days to survive and finding the right people is the key."

Yes, you've told us how badly Distillers is run, but what makes you think you could do better Mr. Gulliver?

GULLIVER The changes that are necessary at Distillers are so far reaching, they can only be introduced from the outside. We've done this already with a similar company - Allied Suppliers, which we bought in June 1982.

They were, in some respects, the "Distillers" of the grocery trade, a very large company that had grown by amalgamations, but whose market share had been sliding downhill for years. People expressed doubt whether Allied's business could be improved.

Profits last year were 240% of profits three years ago. Our share price has more than doubled in the last 18 months.

QUESTION *But Distillers' stock market value is 2½ times Argyll's. Aren't you biting off more than you can chew?*

GULLIVER No. Allied Suppliers was also 2½ times our size when we bought them. Yet we started to produce improved results almost straight away.

Nearly all Argyll Foods management are from Allied Suppliers. We provide the strategy and direction; they run the business. In the same way, we will identify the existing skills in Distillers, and give their management the leadership they require.

QUESTION *Your reputation has been made in the fast-moving retail trade. How does this qualify you to nurture famous whisky brands?*

GULLIVER Our prime skills are in marketing and in general management. These skills can both be applied to diverse businesses. Our record proves this. Our senior executives have backgrounds in companies like Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Mars, and Beecham: some of the most successful marketing companies in the world. We understand long-term business building and world brand marketing. It is this kind of marketing skill that we will bring to Distillers.

But more importantly, we will bring the strategy and direction required to build Distillers into an international drinks business with a much broader base.

QUESTION *You claim to be able to revitalise Distillers. But how successful is your own Argyll drinks business?*

GULLIVER How do you measure success? We've taken our drinks business from £100,000 profit in 1980 to over £10 million profit last year. Return on shareholders' funds has increased from 3% to 34%.

Last year, Distillers Company (Home Trade) showed £0.5 million profit on their sales of £121 million. We made £1.3 million profit on our home trade sales of just £30 million. If we could do that when our lead product is a regional rum, imagine what we could do with the famous names like Haig, Dewar's and Johnnie Walker.

QUESTION *You've run businesses in Britain. But what do you know about international markets?*

GULLIVER I have had direct experience in North America since 1971, when I became responsible for retail interests there, in addition to being Chairman and Chief Executive of Fine Fare here.

In 1982 we bought Barton Brands, a Chicago based drinks company, and built upon their traditional business of bourbon and Scotch whisky. For instance, we developed Corona Extra, making it the fastest growing imported beer in the United States.

Distillers make a lot of their performance in the United States. But it has all been achieved by local distributors, not by them. It wasn't till 1984 that they decided to buy one of these distributors, paying some \$250 million mainly for the right to distribute their own brands.

QUESTION *Argyll has achieved its growth by acquiring companies - How do you answer that?*

GULLIVER We have a reputation for making good acquisitions, but our profits come from making these prosper. For instance, in our food business, since 1982 we've increased profits from £18 million to £44 million - with only £2 million of this resulting from acquisitions.

QUESTION *It is said you not only buy companies - but you also sell them.*

GULLIVER In the past 4 years we've sold peripheral activities for a sum of £17 million. That represents only 2% of the current market value of the Argyll Group.

Looking at Distillers, we don't see why they need seven prestigious offices in London's West End. We may sell some of those. But we certainly won't be selling any of Distillers' valuable brands or businesses. We want to build up Distillers' business - not take it apart.

QUESTION *What makes you so confident you will make money for Distillers' shareholders?*

GULLIVER Because it will be in the interests of our management to achieve this. Argyll directors are committed to our company's success. We own a total of £27 million worth of shares in Argyll and 180 of our senior management participate in a stock option scheme, with an average of 30,000 shares each. We all have a very powerful motivation to succeed - as will Distillers' executives with our management.

QUESTION *Shareholders are being bombarded with circulars. Is there to be any let up?*

GULLIVER The shareholders have my sympathy. But we hope soon to be able to reduce these mailings to two a year - telling Distillers' shareholders about their dividends and earnings.

Argyll. We can revive Distillers' spirits.

WALL STREET

Table of stock market activity including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various sector indices.

Dow speeds to record

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street shares remained substantially higher in active early trading yesterday in the wake of a strong opening by the Dow Jones industrial average...

Markets were lively yesterday. Although metals started with a dismal fall, they picked up in the afternoon.

Markets were lively yesterday. Although metals started with a dismal fall, they picked up in the afternoon. Aluminum and copper looked quite strong. Gold advanced on the back of...

COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES. Rubber 1.24 1/2. Soybean meal, coffee and cocoa in 1/2 per cent. Gas oil and sugar in 1/2 per cent. G.W. Johnson and Co report.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES. Sterling's overall value dropped to its lowest level for eight months yesterday, amid growing concern about prices at the end of the winter.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

Table of Canadian prices for various commodities and stocks.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

The market continued to push period rates firmer yesterday as the December surge in bank lending added to its worries. By the close, only the 'ones' showed a fixed rate below 12 per cent in the interbank term deposits.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including three month sterling, euro dollar, and various interest rates.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Table of Euro-currency deposits for various banks and terms.

GOLD

Table of gold prices and related financial data.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

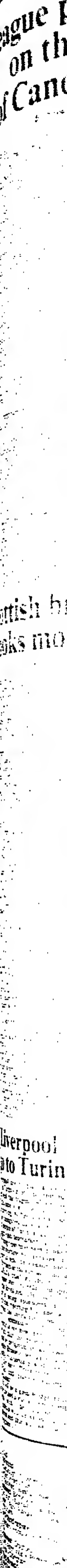
Table providing information for the Times Unit Trust Information Service.

Large table of unit trusts under the heading 'THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE'.

Large table of unit trusts under the heading 'THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE'.

Large table of unit trusts under the heading 'THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE'.

Large table of unit trusts under the heading 'THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE'.



RUGBY UNION: FRENCH SELECTORS RING THE CHANGES FOR INTERNATIONAL AGAINST SCOTLAND

France choose Dubroca as their captain and hooker at Murrayfield

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Daniel Dubroca, the 31-year-old Agen captain, will lead France into the Five Nations championship...

The brilliant Denis Charvet, who played against Oxford University for Major R. V. Stanley's XV in November...

There can be little doubt of the mettle of the French backs who will play against Scotland...



Dubroca: versatile

Despite all the change, only one member of the team is a new cap, Philippe Marocco...

Three of the changes were dictated by injuries to Dintrens, Didier Codomoni (centre) and Jean-Patrick Lescurboursa (stand-off).



Laporte: back in favour after five-year absence

Hope for Lions tour says SA referee

From Ivo Tennant, Cape Town

The British Lions tour of South Africa may yet go ahead this year, according to one of the leading figures in the game here...

Nevertheless, there is much speculation here as to whether rugby and football will follow cricket's lead and attempt to overcome international isolation...

South African exodus could follow Louw and Mordt

From Paul Martin, Cape Town

Amidst a barrage of criticism and accusation directed against South Africa's Rugby Union administration...

The game is being run here. In a front page 'exclusive' interview with the Afrikaans weekly newspaper, Rapport...

Rob Louw, the Springbok loose forward who captained the World XV against Wales a year ago...

South Africa's rugby union players are meanwhile demanding and receiving large under-the-table payments...

Low accepts fully that in South Africa 'politics and rugby are intertwined', and that Afrikaner pride would be damaged by mass defections...

South Africa's rugby union players are meanwhile demanding and receiving large under-the-table payments...

Queensland bolstered by six internationals

By David Hands

Thought and action which have been his hallmark in Brisbane, Queensland, whose tour had been supported by Castlemeade XXXX...

Queensland, whose tour had been supported by Castlemeade XXXX, the larger company, have also encountered high-flying entertainment off the field...

Centenary history of a great Welsh club

David Hands reviews recent rugby publications

Within the space of five days in November I watched two rugby matches; in the first the referee awarded 37 penalties...

Corries's book, Rugby Union, concerned with basic statistics contains two beautiful pictures of players being lifted at the line-out...

Not, perhaps, if you are Bryn Thomas. The author of the book, which is compiled 50 years of memories in Rugby in The Blood...

Blanket blank Bristol Rugby club are to send the £10,000 thermal blanket bought to protect their pitch back to their manufacturers...

Blanket blank Bristol Rugby club are to send the £10,000 thermal blanket bought to protect their pitch back to their manufacturers...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Weather keeps Prohm out in cold

By Keith Macklin

The weather has inflicted a particular cruel blow on Hull Kingston Rovers and their New Zealand international centre, Gary Prohm...

Despite the freezing conditions in the north, which show no signs of early abatement, the match is certain to go ahead...

League officials are expecting an attendance approaching 20,000 for the match between the two current form sides in Rugby League...

Although the League may fight shy of carrying out a threat to play matches of other Rugby Union players from Wales...

IN BRIEF

Macauley off the transfer list

BASKETBALL: Jim Macauley has made his peace with the struggling First Division side, Hammers...

SKING: A men's World Cup downhill scheduled for Friday in Garmisch, West Germany...

SPEEDWAY: Birmingham promoters, Tom Everts and Les Powell, are prepared to continue National League racing at the Walsley Project complex...

FIGURE SKATING: The world, Olympic and European champions, Yelena Valova and Oleg Vassilyev, won the pairs title...

ATLETICIS: The distance runner, Eamonn Coghlan, of Ireland, and Mary Stacey, were named winners of the 1985 Vitalis Award...

ICE HOCKEY: NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL) playoffs...

FIGURE SKATING: The world, Olympic and European champions, Yelena Valova and Oleg Vassilyev, won the pairs title...

ATLETICIS: The distance runner, Eamonn Coghlan, of Ireland, and Mary Stacey, were named winners of the 1985 Vitalis Award...

ICE HOCKEY: NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL) playoffs...

Chris Law's America's Cup gamble

The yachtsman who burnt his boats to join the Crusade

Chris Law, who hopes to be competing in his fifth Olympic Games in Seoul, is making a proportionally larger commitment to Britain's America's Cup challenge...

Chris Law, who hopes to be competing in his fifth Olympic Games in Seoul, is making a proportionally larger commitment to Britain's America's Cup challenge...

Then, in the spring of 1983, he was the match-winning Lynton Cup, beating all the top helmsmen including Bertrand, the skipper of Australia II...

Chemistry upset by surplus element station in the Royal Thames bid, dismisses the sceptics who say that the Crusader syndicate is short of time and money...

There's more guts in this effort even than there was with PDS, though there's less parazz. Law says: "Yet it should be recognized that PDS took British 12-metre racing from nowhere to being close to Liberty (Comer's boat defeated by Australia II)..."

Everything that has been said was going to happen so far, such as the building programme, has been on time. We shall have a two-boat campaign in training for six months...

Law, seven times national Finn or Soling champion, first competed in the Olympics in Munich, aged 20, soon after leaving Millfield...

Law, Warden Owen, Richards and Cadmore recently competed in three low-key events in Sardinia, St Tropez and Perth...

Law recognizes the selection risk-factor. "Harry's an Irishman living off his nerve ends, and I respect that," he said...

Part of Law's gamble is that Cadmore is this month launching a sports management company, partly to organize tax-deductible fund raising...

Law: "chance of a lifetime" Round the World race report, page 23

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for DARTS, BASKETBALL, SQUASH RACKETS, CYCLING, ATHLETICS, GOLF, TENNIS. Includes results for various sports events.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

SUPER SECRETARIES

01-837 0668

CHRISTINE WATSON LTD
P.A. TO £13,000
The position of P.A. to a top level executive...

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY
£10,000
For a leading international investment group...

AUTHOR HAMPSTEAD
£211,000
A unique opportunity has arisen to work for a well known author...

Lloyd's Agency-City
SECRETARY/PA
For Managing Director of a financial services company...

NEW YEAR ADVERTISING
£8,500 neg.
We are a large international advertising agency...

Shorthand Typist £7,800
Shorthand typist are required immediately for a modern office...

SWISS RE (UK) SECRETARY/PA
Swiss Re (UK) have a vacancy for a Secretary/PA for their Assistant General Manager...

SECRETARY
Independent Broadcasting Authority, based in Knightsbridge, requires a secretary to work in the office of the Director General...

SECRETARY
We need a responsible, energetic telephone operator to operate a simple telephone system...

TELEVISION £29,000
We are currently recruiting for three top television production and administration...

Bernadette of Bond St.
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
No. 55, (just east of Fenchurch Street)

SEC/TYPIST
W.1 From £28,500
Although relatively small, we are one of the most successful and established of our kind...

THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL?
So do you - that's why all our consultants have a personal background, as much as 10 or 20 years...

PUBLIC RELATIONS £10,000+ BONUS
Highly ambitious and respected agency in central London needs a Director of Public Relations...

MARKET RESEARCH - CITY
Market Research - A fascinating field in itself - can provide a tremendously stimulating environment...

PA SEC Fast moving PR consultancy £10,000
SEC No 4/8 top agency £9,000
SEC Rosy gh. Young, lively recruitment...

COLLEGE LEAVER
NO SHORTHAND
£5,500
A great chance for a college leaver to play a part in a highly successful recruitment consultancy...

BRAND HOTEL! £10,000
Well known London Hotel seeking a Sec with a minimum 5 yrs exp...

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS
A vibrant position has arisen in the West End office of this Executive Search Consultancy...

CAROLINE KING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
£28,500
We have a fantastic opportunity for an Executive Secretary to join our team...

£10,000 PERSONNEL
You will work on recruitment and training in a busy office...

AUDIO SECRETARY
Age 26 plus
Salary £9,500 neg.
A firm of corporate finance advisers are seeking a secretary to join their team...

CAROLINE KING TEMPS! TEMPS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
1986 is already proving to be extremely busy and we are urgently requiring experienced, top calibre secretaries...

RECEPTIONIST W1 - £9,000
As a Receptionist, in the superb offices, you will order flowers, make appointments and answer the telephone...

Bernadette of Bond St.
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
No. 55, (just east of Fenchurch Street)

FIRST JOB £6,500
A small, prestigious, firm of City accountants seeks a young Secretary/Receptionist to join their team...

RESPONSIBLE POST
Efficient, experienced Secretary with good telephone manner and excellent shorthand skills...

DRAKE PERSONNEL
FINKE ART £27,000
When you join this successful design and advertising agency...

CHARTER CLINICS PA to HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR
£28,000 + Benefits
The Administrator of our Private Hospital in Hampstead is looking for an experienced PA...

NO SHORTHAND £10,000
Successful Charter Clinics Hospital in Hampstead is looking for an experienced PA...

PA IN LEGAL £28,000
Excellent opportunity to join a busy law firm in central London...

SECRETARY / MINDER £8,750
Reliable, self-motivated, personable, well trained and experienced Secretary/Minder...

Bilingual Secretaries
We are urgently seeking bilingually capable secretaries for a variety of stimulating and rewarding positions...

ADVERTISING SECRETARY
Agency, near Covent Garden, requires a hard working, confident and well spoken Secretary...

WINE MERCHANTS
Urgently seek a well organized, energetic, and confident Secretary to work in our busy office...

PARISH SECRETARY
For busy Parish office in central London. Good typing skills and ability to handle a wide range of correspondence...

DESIGN £9,000
Two young designers need a bubbly personality to become part of a successful team...

DRAKE PERSONNEL
SUPER SECRETARY / OFFICE-MANAGER
New property development company based in Mayfair offers a challenging and exciting long term position...

H/L/M/B
Do you want a really, really exciting job, doing something that is different from anything else out there...

EDUCATION SECRETARY
For medical facility, London W1. Responsible for the day to day running of the Faculty's membership administration...

£13,000 - £14,000
A well known London Hotel seeking a Sec with a minimum 5 yrs exp...

MACHIN CONSERVATORIES
Bright enthusiastic Secretary/PA, preferably with some experience in the fashion industry...

MISON PERSONNEL ASSISTANT
City Bankers seek administrator for their City branch...

BLOODSTOCK INSURANCE
brokers in Knightsbridge requires a secretary with knowledge of racing and breeding. Applicants should have short-hand and not be afraid of typing...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, SH £10,000 for Managing Director of expanding Design Group...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
(Audio) to work on own initiative for senior partners of expanding practice in New Bond St...

PROPERTY £8,500
SECRETARY sought for Director of Investment Development Company in West End...

PA £10,000
For dynamic young chairman of city group with diversified interests...

LATE EXTRA
Fabulous opportunity for young person aged 20-30, to join exciting advertising company...

FARMING IN S. KEN
Lively, intelligent PA to help with the running of a Farming Programme...

FRENCH SPEAKING SECRETARY/PA
For representative office of Swiss Bank in W1. Good secretarial and PA skills...

PERSONAL SECRETARY / Girl Friday
Salary approx £28,000 plus benefits
Working for the Group Chairman and Deputy Chairman...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, SH £10,000 for Managing Director of expanding Design Group...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, SH £10,000 for Managing Director of expanding Design Group...

KNIGHTSBRIDGE £11,000
Property developer with small modern office requires a PA/Secretary...

WP OPERATOR
Experienced and responsible WP operator, required by City Solicitors...

WP OPERATOR
Experienced and responsible WP operator, required by City Solicitors...

SECRETARY / Typist
To building surveyor in young and lively firm of surveyors and estate agents...

HIGHGATE
We are an expanding small group of people looking for a hardworking, efficient, fast, capable secretary...

PA/SECRETARY
For Director of property company near Sloane Square...

WEST END SOLICITORS REQUIRE
Shorthand/Audio Secretary to work for Senior Partner...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, SH £10,000 for Managing Director of expanding Design Group...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, SH £10,000 for Managing Director of expanding Design Group...

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY 2

The house with a long history and a soaring price

It is not often that a house goes up in price once it has come on the market. But No 18 Wilton Place, Belgravia - first priced at £885,000 - has quickly risen to £900,000 for a 60-year lease through W. A. Ellis and Russell Simpson.

Pound House, Peabworth, West Sussex, is a listed Georgian town house so-called because it was originally the old pound for stray animals. With three bedrooms and two reception rooms, the house has a walled garden on three levels.

Georgian plot

When the Craven Hill estate at Hampstead Marsh near Newbury was sold a year ago a new development was planned on part of it, including one house on a rather special plot - a four-acre walled garden surrounded by Grade I listed walls, with a 17th-century bowing room running along the top of one section of wall.

An unusual 17th-century lodge, refurbished to a high standard, at Maya Hill, Hildesley, near Bristol, is for sale at around £250,000 through Knight Frank and Rutley's Cirencester office.

Lord it at the manor

Marston Trussell Hall, on the borders of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, near Market Harborough, is being sold by the present Lord of the Manor. The title will form part of the sale, but is not included in the £225,000 for the house sought by Scott Pimlico of Northampton and Jackson-Stops and Staff.

Chalvington Manor, Chalvington, 10 miles from Lewes in East Sussex, is part of an unspoilt village, next to a 13th-century church, with the rectory opposite and surrounded by the farm. The manor is believed to date from Elizabethan times, with Victorian additions, and has been modernized, retaining many period features, by the present owners.

Beware agent-speak

The New Year comes with forecasts that it will be a good year for the property market. "Buyout" is one of the terms used. It often is, and no doubt it will be for some.

Before buoyancy carries the market aloft and out of sight, however, there is just time to consider two New Year resolutions: do not take estate agents' descriptions of property for sale too seriously, and take more seriously, but not too seriously, the options rather than solicitors for conveyancing.

Both resolutions could be transferred into New Year gifts, bringing a little reality back after Christmas. For the more mature person, a booklet called Brothel in Pimlico could be a help. It is unlikely that anyone under the age of 23 will understand it, but it is a tale of excitement and daring-do based on newspaper advertisements in the 1960s for houses and flats in London placed by Roy Brooks.

He took the unusual view for an estate agent of putting a property on his books in its worst, or realistic, light rather than give a description that on one would recognize, and apart from the fact that his advertisements were funny, they also sold houses.

Even the brothel in Pimlico - "Wanted: someone with taste, means and a stomach strong enough to buy this erstwhile house of ill-repute in Pimlico, untraced by the 20th century" at £4,650, with the prospect that it would be worth £15,000 later up-sold. Add another ought and it would be approaching its current value.

The book is available from certain bookshops or Roy Brooks, 39 Kings Road, Chelsea, London SW3 5ES, at £1.95.

In practical terms, it may be worth looking carefully at the prices charged by estate agents, solicitors and everyone else involved in the business of house buying and selling. Though the fees have been reduced in many cases, with alternative agents and conveyancers entering the market, there are several books about do-it-yourself conveyancing.

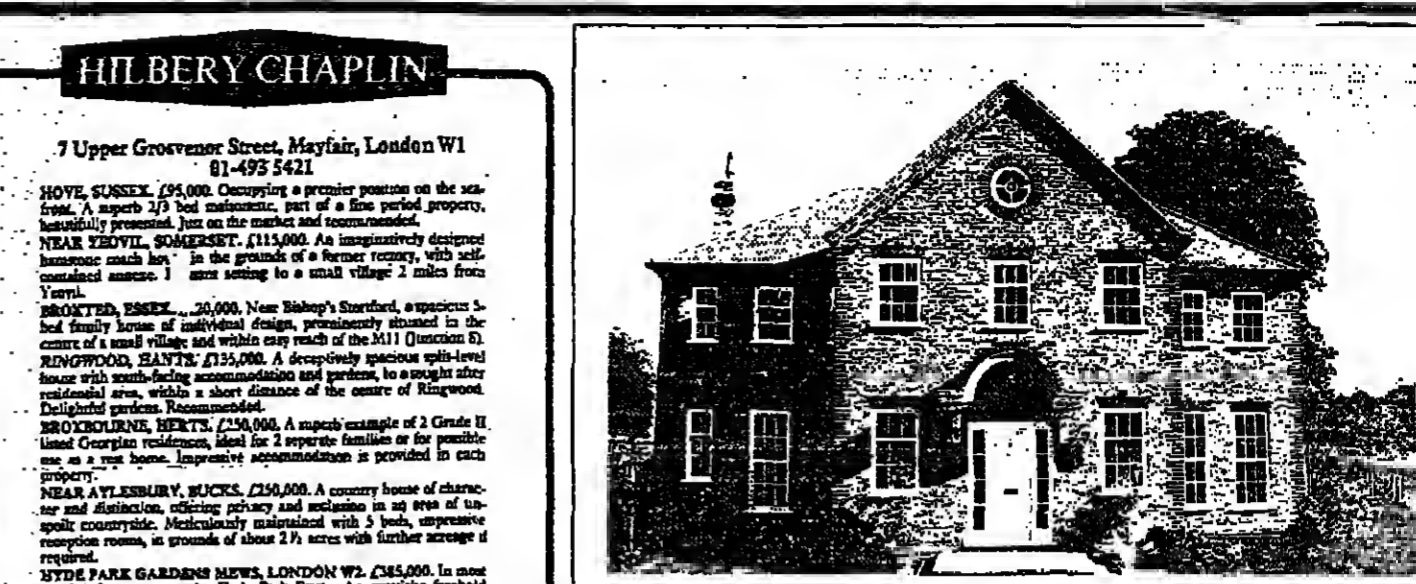
One such is The Conveyancing Fraud by a solicitor, Michael Joseph, which has sold 50,000 copies. To mark this achievement he is offering the book (£3.95) with the necessary forms (a further £3.50), and a new service: the right to three telephone consultations with him as the conveyancing progresses. That will cost £5 and the combined package is £12.45. Each telephone conversation can last up to 15 minutes, and details are available from 27 Occupation Lane, London SE18.

Resolutions can be broken, if there is money to spare, and a New Year present may be the answer. It is probably too late for Savills' offer of the right to fish for salmon on the River Spay in May for the next 36 years, with up to seven rods, for £12.45. Each telephone conversation can last up to 15 minutes, and details are available from 27 Occupation Lane, London SE18.

There is time though for the latest crop of Lordships of the Manor, which must be one of the property growth industries although it does not necessarily include property. Strutt and Parker are now offering about 100 of their Lordships, ranging from £6,000 to around £20,000, including rare London titles in East Ham, West Ham and Plaistow.

PROPERTY BUYERS GUIDE COUNTRY PROPERTY

HILBERY CHAPLIN 7 Upper Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, London W1 8J 493 5421



A NEW GENERATION OF HOMES WITH MORE SPACE, MORE STYLE, MORE FEATURES.

The Barratt Premier Collection is a completely new range of over fifty individual and innovative house designs. Homes to suit every taste and pocket at prices that range all the way from £200,000 up to £500,000.

Each home sets brand new standards in living space, specification and style. And they're all just brimming over with those extra special touches which make life so much more pleasant and comfortable.

For full details of this exciting new generation of homes and our four unique show villages, visit your nearest Barratt development or write to: Barratt Information Service, Post Office Box no. 4UD, London W1A 4UD.

WIN A NEW BARRATT PREMIER HOUSE

Terms and conditions apply to all entries. See details in the guide.

RENTALS

Keith Cardale Groves, Barnard Marcus, Bruce & Partners, Gascoigne-Pees, Philip Andrews, etc. Various rental listings for properties in London and the South East.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY SOUTH ENGLAND

Trade 01-837 1987, Private 01-837 3333 or 3311. Readers are advised to seek professional advice before entering into any commitments. DREAM BOAT IN PARADISE, EXHIBITION OF VILLAS AND APARTMENTS ON THE COSTA BLANCA.

NEW ENGLAND, ALMUNECAR, LA MANGA COUNTRY CLUB, LAND FOR SALE, NORTH WEST, MIDLANDS, LUDLOW, LYTTELTON HOUSE, etc. Various property listings for overseas locations.

PROPERTY TO LET

Various property listings for properties available for rental.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit. Births, marriages and deaths are accepted for publication on the basis of a £1000 deposit. Births, marriages and deaths are accepted for publication on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit. Births, marriages and deaths are accepted for publication on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit. Births, marriages and deaths are accepted for publication on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS
 We have a wide selection of holidays and villas for sale. Contact us for more information.

TRAVELERS
 We offer a range of travel services, including flights, hotels, and car hire. Contact us for more information.

RESISTA CARPETS
 We specialize in high quality carpets and flooring. Contact us for more information.

WINTER SPORTS
 We offer a range of winter sports equipment and services. Contact us for more information.

FLAT SHARING
 We offer a range of flat sharing opportunities. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

ONE THOUSAND HOLIDAYS
 We have a wide selection of holidays for sale. Contact us for more information.

FARESAVERS
 We offer a range of fare saving services. Contact us for more information.

MARKSON PIANOS
 We specialize in high quality pianos. Contact us for more information.

SKI WEST STANBY
 We offer a range of ski holiday services. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

ONE THOUSAND HOLIDAYS
 We have a wide selection of holidays for sale. Contact us for more information.

FARESAVERS
 We offer a range of fare saving services. Contact us for more information.

MARKSON PIANOS
 We specialize in high quality pianos. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

ONE THOUSAND HOLIDAYS
 We have a wide selection of holidays for sale. Contact us for more information.

FARESAVERS
 We offer a range of fare saving services. Contact us for more information.

MARKSON PIANOS
 We specialize in high quality pianos. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

ONE THOUSAND HOLIDAYS
 We have a wide selection of holidays for sale. Contact us for more information.

FARESAVERS
 We offer a range of fare saving services. Contact us for more information.

MARKSON PIANOS
 We specialize in high quality pianos. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

ONE THOUSAND HOLIDAYS
 We have a wide selection of holidays for sale. Contact us for more information.

FARESAVERS
 We offer a range of fare saving services. Contact us for more information.

MARKSON PIANOS
 We specialize in high quality pianos. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

BIRTHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

DEATHS
 Announcements are accepted for publication in the Personal Columns of THE TIMES on the basis of a £1000 deposit.

ONE THOUSAND HOLIDAYS
 We have a wide selection of holidays for sale. Contact us for more information.

FARESAVERS
 We offer a range of fare saving services. Contact us for more information.

MARKSON PIANOS
 We specialize in high quality pianos. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

SKI SKILLS LTD
 We offer a range of ski instruction services. Contact us for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES
 We provide legal services and advice. Contact us for more information.

PERSONAL COLUMNS
 Over 1.3 million of the most affluent people in the country read the classified columns of THE TIMES. The following categories appear regularly every week, and are generally accompanied by relevant editorial articles. Use the coupon (right), and find out how easy, fast and economical it is to advertise in THE TIMES Classified.

MONDAY Education: University Appointments, Prep. & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships & Fellowships.
TUESDAY Computer Horizons: a comprehensive guide to the computer market.
LEGAL Appointments: Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Town & Country, Private & Public Practice.
WEDNESDAY La Crème de la Crème: Secretarial/P.A. appointments over £7,500/General secretarial, Property/Residential, Commercial, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals.
THURSDAY General Appointments: Chief Executives, Managing Directors, Directors, Sales and Marketing Executives, Public, Finance and Overseas Appointments. Including a new classification entitled Financial and Accountancy Appointments.
FRIDAY Motors: A complete car buyers' guide featuring established dealers and private sales.
SATURDAY Overseas Travel: Holidays abroad, Low cost flights, Cruises, Car hire, U.K. Travel: Hotels, Cottages, Holiday Lets, Restaurant reservations.

Switzerland and Austria
 Discover the beauty of Switzerland and Austria. Contact us for more information.

Germany
 Discover the beauty of Germany. Contact us for more information.

HORSE RIDING HOLIDAYS
 Enjoy a week of horse riding in the Cotswolds. Contact us for more information.

CASA FINA
 Half price sale starts tomorrow at 10 A.M. Contact us for more information.

Spink Buy War Medals
 Buy your war medals from Spink. Contact us for more information.

ENTERTAINMENTS
 Discover the latest in entertainment. Contact us for more information.

Syrians fire on Israeli jets

From Robert Fisk Beirut
The Syrian Army was yesterday reported to have fired two Sam 6 anti-aircraft missiles at Israeli reconnaissance jets over the Bekaa Valley in the first incident of its kind since the Israelis complained about new rocket deployments inside Syria.



Mr Cohn arriving for a 1954 Senate hearing and (right) conferring with McCarthy (centre) and another aide (right)

McCarthy ghost haunts a last-ditch battle

From Trevor Fishlock New York
Every now and then in America the ghost of Joseph McCarthy, the witchfinder general, appears. Here in New York it haunts an extraordinary struggle conducted by his former associate, the remarkable Roy Cohn.

whisperer. But, like others, he thinks McCarthyism was a crusade, not odious. He called it recently "a decent hour in history" and said: "Mr McCarthy performed a substantial service to the country, alerting it to the menace of communism."

Mr Cohn and his defenders see a vendetta. He has talked of left-wingers trying to smear him. He says the charges are not serious and that some of his accusers are "classical and yep-yep". His lawyers say he is dying of cancer, and there is a suggestion that a decent man is being spitefully kicked while he is down.

Jopling claim on policy refuted

By John Young Agriculture Correspondent
Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for the Environment, made it clear yesterday that he was determined to exercise his responsibilities in spite of the insistence by Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, that his ministry's policies encompassed all aspects of conservation.

Treasure returns to city of blood

At Cartagena on Colombia's Caribbean coast mere mention of the British used to provoke blood-curdling gasps. Times change. Today Las brujas trigger thigh-slapping mirth. History here was written in blood over the centuries as mighty Royal Navy task forces and pirate fleets stormed this legendary city of the Spanish conquistadores to relieve it of its booty.

Today's events

New exhibitions
North-west cartoonists, The Porico Library and Gallery, 57 Mosley St, Manchester. Mon to Fri 9.30 to 4.30 (ends Jan 31).

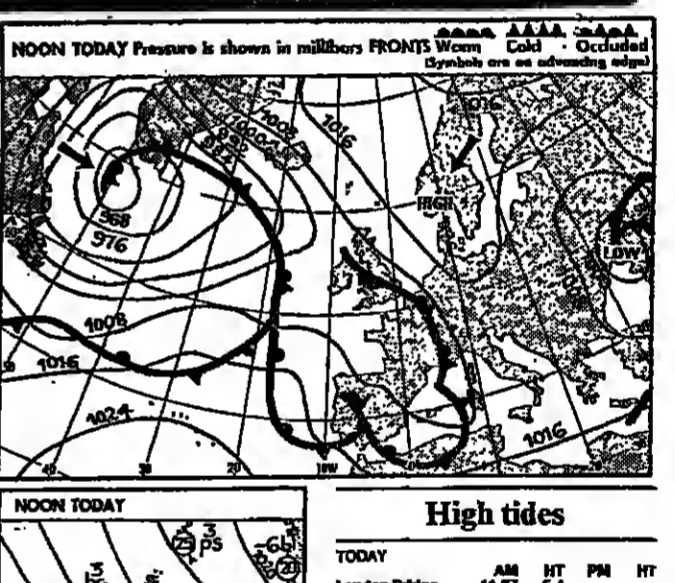
Watercolours, drawings and prints by Thomas Hearne, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge St, Bath; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5 (ends Jan 11).

Books - novels
The Library Editor's selection of fiction of 1985 in translation: A Soldier's Legacy, by Heinrich Böll (Secker & Warburg, £2.95).

The pound
Bank Rate 10.75%
Sterling 2.165
Dollars 1.545
Yen 161.5

Weather forecast

A frontal trough in southern areas will weaken
6am to midnight
London, East Angles, Midlands, N Wales: Outbreaks of sleet or snow dying out later; wind fresh or strong; max temp 5C (37F).



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,938

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 30 indicating the starting positions for the clues.

- ACROSS
1 Salesman quietly replaces source of fruit (6)
2 Urbane Aberdonian twice detailed for manoeuvres (8)
3 Primitive people's state accepted by the wise (7)
4 On the Continent the swindle is continuing (7)
5 Boy returning to Crabbe's town gives a 23 ac (10)
6 Wrestling-bout occurring later in the year (4)
7 Carry on in the theatre (7)
8 Vessel for every potential customer (17)
9 Inferior covering giving highest profit once (3-4)
10 One of Schahriar's birds (7)
11 A pointer's share in the action (4)
12 Weight-lifter and poor player have about in Illinois (4-6)
13 Like Hyperion, she was lost at sea (7)
14 He gives encouragement to one engaged in speculation (7)
15 Bleach for each animal skin, as cockneys say (8)
16 Way an anarchist stood out obviously (6)
17 Tread warily as a prohibitionist (9)
18 Turn aside from girl on edge (7)
19 Chronicle that described in plain language (5-5)

Anniversaries

Births: Alfred Wallace, naturalist, UK; 1823; Wilkie Collins, novelist (The Woman in White), London, 1824; John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, 1941-45; Cecile A. Brown, 1985; Solomon Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, 1956-59; Colombo, 1899; Elvis Presley, Tepelo, Missouri, 1935; Deaths: Giotto, Florence, 1336; Galileo, Pisa, 1642; Arcangelo Corelli, composer, Rome, 1713; Paul Verlaine, poet, Paris, 1895; Robert Stephenson, Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Nyeri, Kenya, 1941; Richard Tauber, tenor, London, 1948.

Sales

Starts today: Harrods (until Feb 11). In progress: Fortnum & Mason; Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, WC2; Airey & Wheeler, 44 Piccadilly, 129 Regent St, 3 Sackville St; Harvey Nichols; C & A (Brent Cross); Antanasium; Army & Navy (Victoria); British Home Stores; Burberry; D H Evans (all branches); Dickens & Jones (Regent Street); Richmond; Fenwick; Jagger (all branches); Liberty; Scotch House (all branches); Selfridges; Simpsons; Laura Ashley (all branches); Debenhams (all branches); Halfords; Heals; Lilywhites; John Lewis (all branches); Buyers & Sellers Ltd.

£10,000 bonds

The winning numbers in this month's £10,000 Premium Bond prizes are: £42,357,775 (the winner lives in Kent); 31DS 778089 (Hampshire); 222B 343534 (South Yorkshire); 165F 706281 (Somerset); 1Y7 400152 (Reading).

Best wines

In a blind tasting of 34 Chianti Riservas the following three were judged outstanding: Granducato Riserva della Corona, Chianti Classico Riserva 1978, Woolworths, £4.29; Rufino Riserva Decale Chianti Classico 1978, Fendler Mackie Todd, Bottoms Up, Wm. Morrison or Peter Dominic, £5.68-£5.85; Castello Vecchiomaggio Prima Vigna, Chianti Classico Riserva 1980, G. Biondi, NW1 or La Vignacore, SW7, £7.99-£10. Source: Decanter, Jan 1986.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to Resort, Weather (5 pm), Temp (C). Rows include Austria, France, Switzerland, and Davos.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 3 am to 6 pm, 3C (37F); min 6 pm to 9 pm, 0C (32F). Humidity: 8 pm, 90%. Rain: 24th to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 2,004 h. Moon: 1st, 10.45 am. Mean sea level, 3 pm, 1.004 m. 1,000 mbars = 29.93 in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day max Celsius 110 (227); lowest day min Celsius -10 (20F); highest wind gust mph 1,000; highest barometric pressure mbars 1,032.

High tides

Table with columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists high tide times for various locations like London Bridge, Aberdeen, and Liverpool.

Around Britain

Table with columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Mist, etc. Provides weather forecasts for various parts of Britain.

Abroad

Table with columns: Location, C, F, etc. Provides weather forecasts for various international locations.

